

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 16993 201702Z

51

ACTION SS-25

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R 291555Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5859

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16993

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: ATHERTON BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING

REF: 278674

1. YOUR BACKGROUNDER READS VERY WELL IN TODAY'S PRESS.
I TOOK IT ON MY OWN TO PUT OUT THOSE MELANCHOLIC STATEMENTS
AS A WAY OF INDICATING I HAD READ
WHAT T. N. KAUL AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID ABOUT NOT
PLACING TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE IN THE RESULTS OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.
AS YOU MUST UNDERSTAND BY NOW, IT IS THE PREROGATIVE, AND
RESPONSIBILITY, OF INDIANS TO QUESTION AMERICAN INTENTIONS, BUT
NEVER OURS TO WONDER ABOUT THEIRS. I STIRRED THEM A BIT,
BUT THEY WILL SOON ENOUGH LAPSE BACK INTO THE
CURIOUSLY COMOTOSE SUPERCILIOUSNESS WHICH PASSES FOR WISDOM
IN SOUTH ASIA.

2. EXEPT YOU WERE WORRIED THAT THE TIME MY DEPARTURE
WAS ANNOUNCED BLITZ SALUTED ME AS A "GENTLEMENT DIPLOMAT"
AND REGRETTED MY LEAVING IT MARKING THE END OF A BRIEF POST-
BANGLADESH REVIVAL OF INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. WELL THIS WEEK
THEY POINT TO THE "INCREDIBLE AGROGANCE" OF MY HAVING CALLED
MY FAREWELL PRESS CONFERENCE (MY ONLY PRESS CONFERENCE I WOULD
ADD) WITH ONLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS NOTICE.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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